Trifles Design Worksheet

1. The way an audience perceives the play is shaped by the choice of performance venue, as well as the set that is designed for the play. Indeed, all the elements that you see and hear during a performance are bound to shape your perception of the play. Which of the following venues do you think can best meet the needs of the play?

**Proscenium**

Arena

Thrust

Flexible

Given the details in the script, why do you think it is the best venue for a production?

The proscenium would be beneficial for the private moments that start with only the reaction of the characters. You never see the upstairs, but the illusion of it is important. Outside and other rooms besides the kitchen and the living room are not as important.

2. What are some of the challenges posed by the play on the design team?

The problem that would be how to do the layout, where to emphasize what and what to put where? The stairs have to be apparent for the feeling of isolation and sound. Make sure that the things that need to stand out are accented in the right spot and at the right time.

3. Choose a character from the play and suggest how she/he should be dressed. In what ways do you think the costume would help accentuate his/her character?

I would focus on the county attorney. He would be dressed time appropriate, but much younger and nicer to display his ego.

4. Given the content of the play, how might the lighting design help further the mood of the production?

The lighting should be dim throughout. Maybe getting brighter during Mrs. Hale thinking of the old happy Minnie Foster, but getting even darker when she’s feeling regret.

5. Suggest music or sound effects that might be used to accentuate the mood or atmosphere of the play and the transitions between parts of the play.

Sound effects should consist of sounds of the men upstairs and when they are coming near. Maybe some ominous noises when finding the evidence, but mostly silent to create the gloomy feeling.